Golden Globes

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Toronto metro

Your essential daily news | MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2017 | High -3°C/Low -5°C Light snow

URBAN ETIQUETTE

Please, please, don't make me be a *bridesmaid*

How to gently avoid it, metroVIEWS

METROTALKS TORONTO'S NEW HEAD OF TRANSPORTATION

Toronto's new transportation director, Barbara Gray, in Dundas Square on Sunday.
EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

Giving Torontonians the right of way

ON THE MOVE

Barbara Gray ready to tackle congestion, road safety

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

After 17 years in Seattle, first as an urban planning student, and then as the city's deputy director of transportation, Barbara Gray is ready for something bigger.

"My family and I were ready to live in the big city," she says. "There's something about living in a big city that's really comforting to me."

Gray, Toronto's newly-minted director of transportation, will undoubtedly be one of the city's most-watched bureaucrats of 2017. Under her watch, the city will roll out its new road safety plan, tackle congestion and "rebalance" the roads so pedestrians and cyclists can get around safely and easily.

Gray's tenure in Seattle taught her that changes to road design can have "overnight impacts on people's daily lives." Now that she's here, she's looking to take the lessons she learned in the Pacific Northwest and "scale" them to Toronto. "All solutions are ultimately local," she says.

Gray stopped by Metro to talk about improving the way Torontonians move.

Read more about her plans for 2017, metroNEWS

City needs feds, province to help fight fentanyl crisis metroNEWS

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metro NEWS
Your essential daily news

Brazilian woman mistakes Lord of the Rings figurine for a saint. **World**

Humans of Toronto by K. Omar

"The last thing my mom said to me at the airport was 'good riddance.' So, my happiest moment was on Halloween of last year when I was actually on the plane from Dublin Airport to Toronto. I was really happy because it was a freeing moment ... I was leaving problems back home. When I came here, though, it seemed that the distance made everything better. About a week after I left, I got a phone call from her asking if I was OK and how things were. The distance helped clear the air. It made us realize that we were both wrong, and that we needed to get past it.

Humans of Toronto is K. Omar's social photography project aimed at photographing and talking to people in the city. Selections from her work feature weekly in Metro. See more at Humans of Toronto on Instagram.

Historic renovation on the way

ACCESSIBILITY

Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives getting facelift

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

It's already home to pageant tiaras, leather vests, and countless newspaper articles and photos.

Now the word's largest independent gay and lesbian archives is planning a facelift, so that everyone can enjoy it.

Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives executive director Raegan Swanson said the non-profit hopes to start a renovation as soon as possible to make the historic three-storey building on Isabella Street more accessible for those with mobility issues.

"It's a huge amount of work that needs to be done," Swanson said. "You can't get to our second floor without the elevator and that's a huge issue."

At city council's last meeting of 2016 councillors voted to release $45,750 put aside for the neighbourhood from a nearby development deal for the upgrades.

This money goes into a pot that will hopefully include funds from an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant the non-profit has applied for, Swanson said.

The archives have been preserving the community's history since 1973. SVP MEDIA

The money will go towards building an elevator and accessible ramps, as well as making the bathrooms larger.

Coun. Kristyn Wong-Tam said it's important the public archives "lives up to its aspirations" to become more accessible.

"Full and equal participation is absolutely key in order for us to build an inclusive world for them, and this is just one small gesture in order for them to do so," she said.

For Swanson, the archives are key to ensuring the stories of LGBTQ people, not often found in history books, are told.

"Making sure that those stories pass through to the new generation and making sure that people are aware of the history that happens, and how the history has influenced what's happening now," she said.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

Apiary to boost security after vandals leave hundreds of bees dead

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

> Mostly we've had acts of graffiti, but not much more. This really caught us by surprise. David O'Hara

Officials are looking for ways to beef up security at the Fort York apiary following a rash of vandalism that has left hundreds of bees dead.

Someone opened up two of the seven beehives at the downtown Toronto spot last Thursday, stealing close to 30 pounds of honey and leaving an estimated third of the bee population exposed in the freezing weather.

"It's hard for us to monitor the entire area overnight," said David O'Hara, manager of the Fort York National Historic Site. "We need to take stronger steps to make sure the area is better protected."

The 43-acre space is home to over 50,000 bees. The area is fenced off but there aren't enough people in and around the area to warrant measures such as security cameras, he said.

Toronto Honeys beekeepers Shawn Caza and Melissa Berney reported that the hives were vandalized twice in as many weeks.

"Mostly we've had acts of graffiti, but not much more. This really caught us by surprise," O'Hara said. "People are generally very respectful of this site."

Toronto Police are investigating the incident.

Fort York beehives were vandalized, and bees exposed. FACEBOOK

METROTALKS TORONTO'S NEW HEAD OF

Getting us all moving

In the next 10 years, Toronto's population is expected to swell by roughly half a million people. Ensuring all those new Torontonians get where they're going quickly and reliably won't be easy, but Barbara Gray is up to the task. Toronto's new director of transportation visited =Metro last week to discuss her goals for the city's streets and explain why the future of Toronto doesn't belong to the car. **LUKE SIMCOE** METRO

Toronto's new transportation director Barbara Gray in the Metro newsroom . EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

Partnerships

Gray sees transportation planning as a "dialogue" and is vocal about her desire to involve more people in the process.

She plans to reach out to Toronto Public Health "because they measure everything and have good data."

She's eager to tap into the "energy" of the private sector and strengthen her department's relationship with police, especially enforcing speed limits.

"I hope I can demonstrate the success of partnerships," she said. "You start to blur those lines between disciplines and it provides opportunity."

On Toronto

Gray grew up outside New York and first visited Toronto in the mid-'90s.

"The city left a huge impression on me," she said, hailing Toronto as a "walkable" city with a "dynamic and complicated" transportation system and "glorious" architecture.

Gray called Toronto "a city of neighbourhoods" and while she's yet to travel to all its many corners, she's already been impressed by how multicultural we are.

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TRANSPORTATION

"I was eager to be in a diverse city," she said.

Safety is 'Job No. 1'

In her previous job, Gray led an aggressive push for pedestrian safety, and is pleased to see similarities between Seattle's plan and Toronto's new $80-million road strategy.

"The focus on seniors and kids is exactly right. They're the most vulnerable road users," she said. "We know that older people get hit and suffer more severe injuries and we know that children have no real alternative to move around on their own other than walking or cycling."

Gray is tasked with rolling out the plan, and said its success will be measured in lives saved.

"You need to see the needle moving," she said. "A year is not a long time, but we should see some progress being made."

Urban planning vs. engineering

Many senior transportation planners are engineers, trained to think about traffic in numbers. Gray is different; she has a background in urban planning.

When she walks down the street, she focuses less on traffic signal timing and more on how the road functions as part of the public realm.

"One of the things I've learned is that if you can find a team of planners who think like engineers, and engineers who think like planners, you can accomplish quite a lot," she said.

War on the car?

Gray rejected the suggestion that designing better roads for pedestrians and cyclists constitutes a "war on the car."

"That's ridiculous," she said. "If you're interested in having

> **Everyone loves to talk about transportation.**
> Barbara Gray

people have a reliable trip regardless of what mode they choose, and growing the number of people in the city, you can't continue to expect that everybody is going to travel in their car."

Gray encountered the same rhetoric in Seattle, but said it faded away after residents found safety improvements and cycling infrastructure didn't add to congestion, but reduced injuries and deaths on the road.

"Not everyone is convinced by data, but if you can demonstrate that the changes you've made have had some impact, you start to see the pace of change increase," she said,

"Get 'er done"

Gray acknowledged that transportation planning in Toronto will be different than in many U.S. cities, where planners have more delegated authority, and municipal politicians can change the rules of the road without having to ask the state government for permission.

"It seems like there's a lot of process to get things done. Not in a bad way, it's just the way it is here," she said.

To help Toronto's roads accelerate into the 21st century, Gray called for more pilot projects in the city — such as the Bloor bike lanes, or the proposed dedicated streetcar lane on King Street — which would let residents see the positive effects of change before committing to it.

INNOVATORS

Road role models

Gray said she takes her cues from two "rock star" U.S. transportation planners.

The first, Janette Sadik-Khan, is the former commissioner of New York's Department of Transportation. She famously converted a number of popular roads in the city — including Times Square — into pedestrian-only plazas.

"Janette really showed what you can do quickly and inexpensively when engineering and planning needs meet," Gray said.

The second is Grace Crunican, Gray's former boss in Seattle and the current head of the Bay Area Rapid Transit system (BART) in San Francisco. Gray said Crunican taught her about the importance of partnering across disciplines.

"Janette and Grace came about in at about the same time with a similar mission: to create safer cities around transportation and to be innovative and creative and not be content with what had happened over the last 50 years," Gray said.

Janette Sadik-Khan

PUBLIC HEALTH

Injection site funding up in air

As B.C. experiences an ongoing crisis in fentanyl overdoses that killed 374 drug users last year, Toronto has requested federal permission to open three supervised injection sites meant to monitor and protect against overdose and disease — but is waiting for provincial funding.

The number of all overdose deaths in Toronto grew to unprecedented levels in 2014, increasing by 77 per cent since 2004.

Liberal MP Adam Vaughan, a former Toronto city councillor, said Friday his government and Health Minister Jane Philpott have acknowledged the issue is a health emergency.

The city has requested the province fund an estimated $350,000 for renovations and annual operating costs of $1.8 million.

Legislation introduced under the previous Conservative government requires applicants to go through an onerous process to request federal exemption under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act to operate the sites.

"The only outstanding pieces required are, one, the federal government to give us the formal exemption ... and two, for the province of Ontario to confirm that it will fund them," said Coun. Joe Cressy, who heads the city's drug strategy implementation panel.

MP Adam Vaughan acknowledges overdoses in the province represent a health emergency. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Toronto Public Health said Health Canada recently sent a letter acknowledging their application and noted that a letter of opinion from the province is among the outstanding items.

Provincial Health Minister Eric Hoskins has been silent on whether funding will be forthcoming.

Toronto would be the second Canadian city to have supervised injection services, after Vancouver earlier pioneered them.

The sites looking for approval and funding include the Toronto Public Health-operated The Works at Yonge-Dundas, the Queen West Central Toronto Community Health Centre on Bathurst St. and the South Riverdale Community Health Centre near Carlaw Ave.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

'GET READY'

No time to waste: Mayor

Mayor John Tory says a rapid response is required to save lives in the fentanyl crisis. Tory said he reached out to Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson on the issue and Robertson responded, "My advice to you would be to get ready."

IN BRIEF

Toddler wandered outside in diapers: Police

A toddler was found outside Sunday, in just a diaper. Police say a passerby took him in to warm until help arrived. Paramedics checked on him; he was not taken to hospital. Police say he left his home while his mother was cleaning. THE CANADIAN PRESS

First homicide of 2017

Toronto's first homicide victim of 2017 was shot near Moss Park Sunday morning. Police were called to Queen St. E. and Sherbourne St. and found a man suffering from at least one gunshot wound and was rushed to hospital, where he died.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Private meetings panned

Mayor John Tory's request to the premier that his executive committee be allowed to meet in private is being panned as anti-democratic by a former provincial ombudsman. "Democracy is inconvenient and messy, but so be it," said André Marin.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Ottawa's self-esteem issue worn on sleeves

CULTURE

Fun take on T-shirt slogan sparks debate

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

Could Ottawa eventually become a major cultural hub — the Portland of Canada? Maybe, says designer Dominic Coballe, but first they need to deal with their self-esteem problem.

Coballe, co-founder N-Product, is promoting those conversations in 2017 with a tongue-in-cheek art project: a black shirt that reads "Ottawa vs. Itself."

The T-shirt is a take on a project in Detroit, where graphic designer Tommey Walker created T-shirts with the slogan: "Detroit vs. Everybody." A similar design in Toronto sparked a copyright war in 2015. Coballe was discussing the shirts with friends last summer when he made an honest joke about Ottawa.

Dominic Coballe wearing one of the T-shirts he designed about Ottawa's image problem. HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

"Ottawa could never get away with an Ottawa vs. Everybody. It would more likely be Ottawa vs. itself. We're our own worst enemies," he said. "Whether you were raised here or you're a transplant, you kind of get that vibe: We don't think we're cool enough."

> **We're actually better than what we think we are.**
> Dominic Coballe

Coballe Photoshopped a mockup of the design and, after posting the image on Facebook, there was such a demand for T-shirts that Coballe decided to print a run as an art project.

"A lot of people loved it. Some people were like, 'What does it mean? Are you taking a swipe at Ottawa?'" he said. Whether you get the joke or not, Coballe said he's hoping it gets people talking about the city.

"I'm from Ottawa, I love this town, we have a family here. Some people see it as 'we're our own worst enemies' but some people think it's uplifting, because we're also our own worst critic. We're actually better than what we think we are."

EDMONTON

Cemetery searches for its artist-in-residence

Kevin Maimann
Metro | Edmonton

Here's an eerily good opportunity: The City of Edmonton is giving one artist the chance of a lifetime — to work among the dead.

The Edmonton Arts Council has put out a call for applications to be the first artist-in-residence hosted by City of Edmonton Cemeteries.

The chosen artist will get to work on art in local cemeteries as a full-time job for six months, with a primary studio space on the second floor of a building at Mount Pleasant.

While some might find the space unnerving, Teena Changarathil, supervisor of cemetery sales and operations with the city, said it could be inspiring.

"It's very historic. A lot of what we do with cemeteries is we have beautiful parkland, and it's really a warm and inviting place," Changarathil said.

"Once you get past the initial cemetery part of it and actually focus in on the area and the work that we do and our staff and the customers that we work with on a regular basis, the sombreness kind of fades away and the comfort and connections and history comes to light."

Teena Changarathil
KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

Some bodies buried in Edmonton's Mount Pleasant cemetery date back to the 1800s.

The building that houses the studio space sits on one of the city's highest geographical points, and also holds administrative offices and niches for cremated remains.

The selected artist will develop a "body" of work throughout their residency and will showcase their final products with an exhibition at an undetermined location.

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Trump accepts U.S. hacked by Russia: Aide

POLITICS

President-elect has expressed skepticism on Putin's role

U.S. President-elect Donald Trump's incoming chief of staff, Reince Priebus, said Sunday that Trump has accepted that Russia was responsible for the Democratic National Committee and a top aide to former rival Hillary Clinton.

"He's not denying that entities in Russia were behind this particular campaign," Priebus said in a television interview Sunday.

That's more than Trump himself has said. As for potential retaliation, aides said those are decisions that Trump will make after he becomes president on Jan. 20.

Intelligence officials allege that Moscow directed a series of hacks in order to help Trump win the White House in the race against Clinton. Trump has expressed skepticism about Russia's role and declined to say whether he agrees that the meddling was done on his behalf.

In an interview after a briefing on the findings, Trump said he "learned a lot" from his discussions with intelligence officials, but he declined to say whether he accepted their assertion about Russia's motives. Trump has said that improving relations with Russia would be a good thing and that only "stupid" people would disagree.

"My suspicion is these hopes will be dashed pretty quickly," said Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky. "The Russians are clearly a big adversary. And they demonstrated it by trying to mess around in our election." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Donald Trump, right, has been skeptical that Vladimir Putin's Russia meddled in the recent U.S. election. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/GETTY IMAGES

FORT LAUDERDALE

Questions swirling in airport shooting

Florida airport shooting suspect Esteban Santiago, facing federal charges that could potentially result in a death sentence, has his first court hearing Monday.

Although the charges carry a potential death sentence, the Justice Department will decide later whether to pursue that penalty assuming Santiago is convicted. His defence is uphill at best, with dozens of witnesses to the shooting and the FBI saying in an affidavit that he told agents how he planned the attack. There is also video surveillance of the shooting.

Santiago's attorney can also ask for a mental competency evaluation to determine if he is fit to stand trial.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

O Lord (of the Rings), please hear my prayer

Andrew Fifield
Metro | Toronto

A Brazilian woman claimed a late entrant to the "funniest discovery of 2016" after learning an elderly relative had been unknowingly praying daily to a Lord of the Rings tchotchke.

Gabriela Brandao, a beautician from Florianapolis, had a hunch something was amiss with what a great-grandmother thought was a figurine of a Catholic saint.

"My daughter's great-grandmother prays to this figure of San Antonio every day," Brandao wrote on Facebook. "But looking closer…"

An inspection revealed the figure's finery had more of an environmentalist bent, which is more indicative of Elrond, the half-elf Lord of Rivendell and not, in fact, Saint Anthony, patron saint of lost things.

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Monday, January 9, 2017

URBAN ETIQUETTE ELLEN VANSTONE

THE QUESTION

Should I lie my way out of being bridesmaid to my husband's best friend's fiancée who I don't like?

Dear Ellen,

My husband's best friend got engaged over Christmas, and now his fiancée asked me to be her bridesmaid. I don't want to do it. I've already been a bridesmaid four times this year. I don't like her. I tried to put her off by politely declining the "honour" but she won't accept no for an answer. It's so much work and expense even when you like the person. My current plan is to lie my way out of it. Advice?

Reluctant Bridesmaid

Dear Reluctant Bridesmaid,

Hmmm, I'm thinking The Reluctant Bridesmaid would be an excellent title for a horror movie. Let's hope it doesn't come to that.

With the bare facts you have supplied, I would say you owe this person nothing, and that a firm "thank you but I really must say no" is a more-than-acceptable way to get out of it.

I would also condone a big fat fake excuse, as I believe that lying one's face off to get out of certain (but not all) situations in order to avoid hurting someone's feelings is also completely acceptable.

The problem here is that your husband is a liability. If he's the groom's best friend, he will no doubt attend the wedding, and possibly even act as best man. Which would make him a conspicuous presence at the proceedings. Which means you can't pretend to have a terrible disease, or a dying relative, or that you are on a dangerous intergalactic mission to save the world, without making him look like a total d— for blowing you off to attend the nuptials.

If she's marrying your husband's best friend, you have to take the men's relationship into account.

As for telling the brutal truth, you may not care what the fiancée thinks of you. But if she's marrying your husband's best friend, you have to take the men's relationship into account.

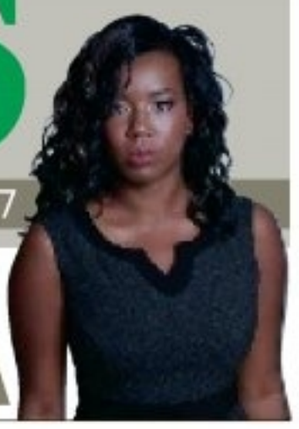
Ideally, the two of them will socialize and do guy things without involving you womenfolk for the rest of their lives. (And I have to say, the old-fashioned habit of forced double-dating between couples is a tradition that deserves to die ASAP.)

But if there's any chance the best friend would be hurt by your refusal to join the wedding party, or that his hurt feelings might affect your husband's friendship with him, you must take that into account.

It doesn't mean you need to submit to emotional blackmail and agree to trot up the aisle with Bridezilla. It just means you have to discuss it with your husband, and work something out. Maybe he'll agree the guilt-trip bridesmaid gig is a lot of expense and trouble that's too much to ask, and you'll both agree to find a way out of it, regardless of what his best friend thinks. Or maybe he'll feel it's important to his friend, and ask you to suck it up — at which point you will have to make up your own mind what to do.

Whatever your choice, make sure your own precious marriage doesn't get sacrificed on the wedding altar of people you don't care about at all.

Need advice?
Email Ellen:
scene@metronews.ca



VICKY MOCHAMA

Canada will party while indigenous kids are denied services

For the vast portion of Canadian history, indigenous communities have been stripped of their rights. Underfunding students, bickering over health costs, and allowing children to slip into child welfare cracks is how those rights continue to be abridged.

According to a report last week in the Globe and Mail, over the next year, the federal government plans to spend nearly half a billion dollars on Canada 150. While some of that money will go towards promoting truth and reconciliation, spending millions on a party while indigenous children, families and communities fight for equitable services is a hypocrisy.

Last week, the Toronto Star reported that the Assembly of First Nations and First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada filed a motion to the human rights tribunal asking for the federal government to be found guilty. One year ago, the tribunal ordered the government to comply with Jordan's Principle, a law enacted in 2007. The motion alleges that they have failed to heed the tribunal's orders.

Jordan's Principle requires the government to take a child-first approach to providing services to all First Nations children. The government that is first contacted — be it federal or provincial — takes on the cost of a child's services and seeks to solve jurisdictional issues only after those services have first been paid for.

The law is meant to ensure that all indigenous children receive equal access to government services with the same level of service that non-indigenous children do.

In education, for example, there are significant gaps between what indigenous students on-reserve receive versus provincially funded students. (Education is a provincial responsibility, except in the case of First Nations children living on-reserve.)

A report last month from the parliamentary budget office found shortfalls in what Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) provided for students on-reserve and what their provincial counterpart receive. In their estimation, the funding shortfall between what INAC paid for and what the various provinces would be between $336 million and $665 million in 2016-2017.

The human rights tribunal case — and many others — is evidence of an ongoing process of depriving indigenous children of equitable and humane services.

Organizations like First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada are continually forced to sue the government to provide for services that are standard and sacrosanct for non-indigenous children.

The most recent federal budget provides $3.7 billion in funding for indigenous students over the next five years. But too much of that money won't be seen for a few years yet. Generations of indigenous children will be lost in the meantime.

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‘When the powerful use their position to bully others, we all lose’

GOLDEN GLOBES

Meryl Streep speech delivers takedown of Donald Trump

In accepting her speech for a lifetime achievement award at Sunday night’s Golden Globes, Meryl Streep used the opportunity to criticize President-Elect Donald Trump.

“When the powerful use their position to bully others, we all lose,” said Streep, referencing Trump’s mocking of a reporter with a disability.

The seasoned actress also gave an ode to her fellow actors in a changing Hollywood, referencing the diverse cultural backgrounds of Dev Patel, Ruth Negga, and others. (Even Ryan Gosling received mention for being Canadian.) She used that as an opportunity to take a shot at Trump’s intolerant stance when it comes to immigration.

“Hollywood is crawling with outsiders and foreigners and if you kick them all out, you’ll have nothing to watch but football and mixed martial arts, which are not the arts,” Streep said to loud applause.

The Globes got off to a rocky start Sunday, with a broken teleprompter initially stalling host Jimmy Fallon, who still managed to start the show with a singing-and-dancing ode to La La Land and a steady diet of Trump jokes.

La La Land came into the Golden Globes as the big favourite, and it started out four-for-four.

At the 74th annual Golden Globes on Sunday in Beverly Hills, California, “La La Land” was steamrolling through a Jimmy Fallon-hosted ceremony that mixed the expected Hollywood celebration with often-voiced concern over president-elect Donald Trump.

Damien Chazelle’s Los Angeles musical, which had a leading seven nominations, won best actor for Ryan Gosling, best screenplay for Chazelle’s script, best score (Justin Hurwitz) and best song for “City of Stars.”

“This isn’t the first time I’ve been mistaken for Ryan Reynolds,” Gosling joked, looking at his fellow nominee, the “Deadpool” star. In one of the evening’s more emotional acceptance speeches, Gosling dedicated his award to his late brother-in-law, Juan Carlos Mendes.

“While I was singing and dancing and playing piano and having one of the best experiences I’ve ever had on a film, my lady was raising our daughter, pregnant with our second and trying to help her brother fight his battle with cancer,” said Gosling, referring to his partner, Eva Mendes.

The Golden Globes got off to a rocky start, with a broken teleprompter initially froze Fallon. “Cut to Justin Timberlake, please,” implored a desperately improvising Fallon. It was the second fiasco for Globes producer Dick Clark Productions, which presented the infamous Mariah Carey flub on New Year’s Eve.

The “Tonight Show” host started the show with a cold open ode to “La La Land” in a lavish sketch more typical of the Academy Awards than the Globes. Fallon did a version of the film’s opening dance scene, with starry cameos from Timberlake, previous Globes host Tina Fey, Amy Adams and the white Ford Bronco of “The People v. O.J. Simpson.”

In a more truncated monologue, Fallon’s sharpest barbs weren’t directed at the stars in the room (as was the style of frequent host Ricky Gervais) but president-elect Trump. He compared Trump to the belligerent teenage king Joffrey of “Games of Thrones.” Fallon’s first line (at least once the teleprompter was up) was introducing the Globes as “one of the few places left where America still honours the popular vote.”

That, though, isn’t quite true. The Hollywood Foreign Press Association, a collection of 85 members, has its own methods of selecting winners. Best supporting actress winner Viola Davis, the co-star of Denzel Washington’s August Wilson adaptation “Fences,” alluded to the group’s reputation for being wined and dined.

“I took all the pictures, went to luncheon,” said Davis, to knowing chuckles through the ballroom, as she clutched her award. “But it’s right on time.”

While Davis’ march to an Oscar seems virtually assured, other picks were more idiosyncratic.

The British actor Aaron Taylor-Johnson took best supporting actor for his performance in Tom Ford’s “Nocturnal Animals.” It was a surprise that Taylor-Johnson was even nominated, so his win over favourites Mahersala Ali from “Moonlight” and Jeff Bridges from “Hell or High Water” was a shock.

There were expected winners, like “The People v. O.J. Simpson” taking best miniseries, as well as an award for Sarah Paulson.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/METRO

Sparkle and shine — Futuristic metallics were all over the red carpet. From left: **Ruth Negga** in Louis Vuitton, **Chrissy Teigen** in Marchesa, and **Emma Stone** in Valentino.

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JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Behind bright lights of fame

THE SHOW: Bright Lights: Starring Carrie Fisher and Debbie Reynolds (HBO)
THE MOMENT: Scooting through the casino

The late Carrie Fisher and Debbie Reynolds lived side by side, their public and private lives indistinguishable. CONTRIBUTED

Debbie Reynolds, mid-80s, is about to appear in her final stage show, in a lesser Las Vegas casino. Wearing a long black sweater and a tan knit hat, she rides a scooter across the vast casino floor.

This documentary from directors Alexis Bloom and Fisher Stevens shows us that Reynolds was one of the world's most famous women. When her husband Eddie Fisher left her for Elizabeth Taylor, the scandal made Brad/Angelina/Jennifer look pale. But in the casino, she's just another grandma; no one glances her way.

Backstage in a sequined gown that weighs more than she does, Reynolds can barely move. She shuffles gingerly to the stage entrance, a sliver of space between a potted plant and a speaker. But the minute her toe crosses that line, her shoulders snap back, and she sashays into the spotlight — where she belongs.

I don't know if Bloom and Stevens set out to make Grey Gardens: Hollywood, but that's what they did. Bright Lights is a 94-minute meditation on fame, demonstrating that some people are built for it, and need it like they need food and drink — even if, like food and drink, some of it is bad for them.

Watching it removes some of the sting that Reynolds and her daughter Carrie Fisher recently died a day apart. They lived side by side. They had to be each other's best friends, because only they understood that their public and private lives were indistinguishable. Celebrity had permeated their DNA. It's admirable. It's pitiable. It's fascinating.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

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Jenny (Jessalyn Wanlim), Anne (Dani Kind), Kate (Catherine Reitman), and Frankie (Juno Rinaldi) star in CBC's Workin' Moms, which premieres on Tuesday, Jan. 10. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kohler savours Workin' progress

COMEDY

Portraying women with 'well-rounded problems'

Genna Buck
Metro

Writer and stand-up comedian Rebecca Kohler has been flexing her funny bone in the writers' room of such shows as Schitt's Creek and Kim's Convenience.

Now she's working on the sitcom Workin' Moms, CBC's new, irreverent take on the quest to have it all. But before she hit it big in the world of TV, she was the resident funny lady on the Metro Views page. We caught up with her to talk about the show, how she got into the mind of a mom and the *real* story behind its unique title.

Tell me about the premise of this show.
There's four main characters and they all have jobs and they all have kids. That's the through line. They have very different lives, with different, well-rounded problems and perspectives. I think four different female characters, all interesting, all funny, all touching at times — you don't get a lot of room in a lot of situations to portray women like that.

How did you get involved?
My agent sent me a sizzle reel. It's almost like a trailer for what the show could look like. And I really liked it. I thought, 'these characters are interesting, the type of women I feel like I would hang out with.' And it was funny. I really connected with it. And I had an interview with Catherine Reitman (who plays the lead, Kate Foster) and Philip Sternberg (her co-star and real-life husband), who are both executive producers of the show, and about a month later I found out that they wanted to hire me.

The tone seems a little bit more tart than an average CBC comedy...
Tart is what it is. It's not vanilla. I've worked on a few CBC shows this year, and I feel like (the network) is trying to, outside of just Workin' Moms, step out of what people have come to think of as the CBC. They're trying to take more risks. There are definitely things in this show that will make the average CBC viewer be like, "What channel is this that I'm watching?"

There are other working mothers on TV. Why does this need to happen now?
It's not just about having women on TV and film. It's about having real women. These women are portrayed the way men have always been portrayed. It's (also) not just about being a mom. It's about being a woman who is like, "You can't grab me by the f—ing p—sy! Go f—k yourself!" Pardon my language.

You had to put yourself in the mom headspace to write this — but you don't have children. How did you go about that?
All of my best friends have children. I talk to my best friend who I've known for 20-plus years, and hear her stories. I never want to say I've lived as a mom and I know what it's like. I don't, and I would never presume. Part of what I'm good at is listening and respecting those stories and trying to communicate them as best I can.

This show really has a sense of place. It's so obviously Toronto. Can you talk a little bit about the importance of the setting?
A lot of the Toronto stuff came out through the photography and directing. When Catherine and Philip looked at Toronto, they were like 'Wow, what an amazing city, we want to showcase this.' We had an email chain where Catherine would drive by graffiti, take a photo of it and say, 'We need this in the show!' I think this is a perfect mix of showcasing a world-class city but also keeping it kind of universal.

Why is it called Workin' Moms instead of Working Moms?
It was called Workin' Moms when I started, and it stayed Workin' Moms. It's because they're so busy, they don't have time to say the G! (laughs).

This interview has been edited and condensed for clarity.

"These are the type of women I feel like I would hang out with. Rebecca Kohler

Time to get your house in order

Creating a financial roadmap that your partner can understand and buy into is key. ISTOCK

PERSONAL FINANCE

A selection of columnist Gail Vaz-Oxlade's best advice

At the start of a new year, budgeting and savings goals are top of mind for many. Metro's editors selected their favourite pieces of advice from **this past year's Gail Vaz-Oxlade columns** that you may find useful. Whether you're a first-time home buyer or you just want to save for a great vacation this summer, these money management tips from Gail may help:

Clear the debt doubts

Recalculate your budget assuming your debt is gone and all that debt repayment money is yours for the keeping.

This is a great exercise for three reasons:

1. You will remind yourself of just how dumb debt is.
2. You will enjoy the anticipation of being debt free and that will help keep you on track.
3. You can start planning what you'll do with the money once you do get to debt-free forever.

Settle the score on credit

You should understand how a credit score is calculated and the extent to which it is based on you doing the wrong thing with your credit. The very things that give you a high score — that make you a profitable customer — are completely counter to sound money management.

Despite the fact that I pay off my balance in full every month, the credit scoring system penalizes me if it randomly checks my "credit utilization" and it's up too high. No one can predict the exact point at which the credit scoring system checks a balance, so if I'm close to my limit just before I plan to pay off my balance, I'd lose points big-time.

Quit chasing a high credit score. Focus on managing your money smartly and getting to debt-free forever. Then your credit score won't matter a whit.

Map out your way

While you may think your filing system is intuitive because you've gone to great pains to organize it and put things in a logical order, the first time your partner looks at it he'll be lost. Create a list of what's what and where it is so that there is a roadmap your honey can follow.

There's a good chance that you're counting on your awesome memory for a lot of what you do. Putting it on paper will help you to identify where there may be steps you have overlooked. If you get your bills electronically, does your sweetheart have access to your email?

If you go into hospital to have your herniated disc repaired, will she be able to pay the phone bill on time? Does he know where all the bank accounts are? How about the investments? Does she have a list of all the bills that are paid, automatically or manually, so she knows how much money is

Don't give in to impulse

Emotions play a huge role in our desire to impulse-buy. If we're angry, stressed, guilty or bored, we're more likely to impulse purchase. No doubt that's why instead of buying useful or necessary stuff, impulse shoppers buy things that put them in a better mood.

That old adage "don't go shopping on an empty stomach" doesn't just apply to grocery shopping. Psychologists at the National University of Singapore had participants shop in a room with an unscented candle or one with a cookie-scented candle. The shoppers exposed to the yummy smelling candle made more unplanned purchases. In fact, 50 per cent more people made purchases in the cookie room, even though both groups were told that they had a tight budget. Stimulating the appetite causes people to crave immediate gratification. That's where sleeping on it comes into play.

If you walk away from the idea of the buy, giving your brain enough time to weigh it up you're moving from impulse shopping to problem recognition (and satisfaction).

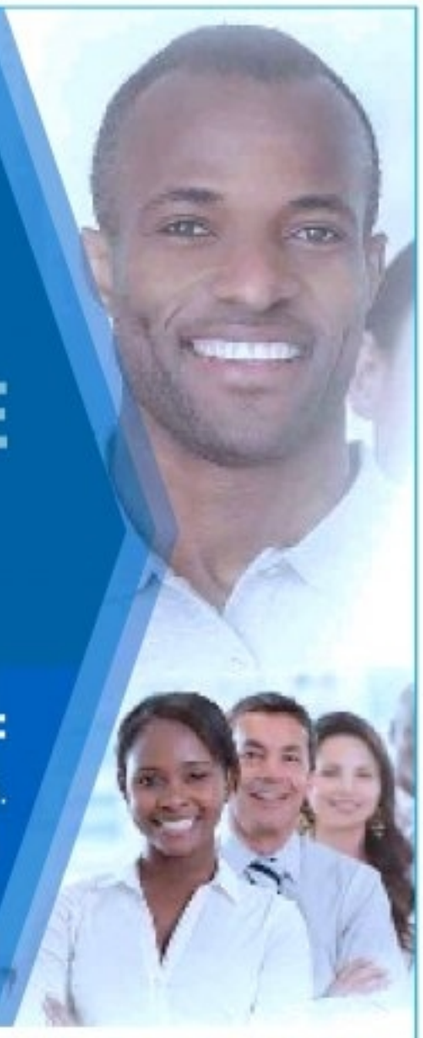
Don't skip on inspection

There's an alarming trend among the people who are desperate to get into the housing market: they skip a home inspection or, having had one done, they completely ignore the report.

It makes no sense to put good money down on what will likely be your single biggest investment without getting a professional opinion on the state of property you're considering.

Hire a good home inspector. Please. Currently, only British Columbia and Alberta regulate home inspectors, although Ontario may jump on this bandwagon shortly.

Home inspectors are a dime a dozen, and some are downright awful. But a good one can help you feel confident in laying down your buck-sixty-two



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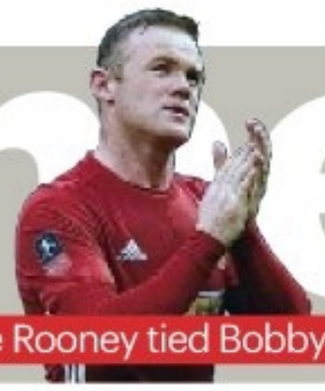
metro SPORTS



Wayne Rooney tied Bobby Charlton as Manchester United's all-time leading scorer with his 249th goal on Saturday in a 4-0 win over Reading

Green Bay prayers answered by Rodgers

NFL PLAYOFFS

Packers QB tosses up more long-ball magic vs. Giants

Aaron Rodgers, master of the Hail Mary pass, struck again in another big moment.

Rodgers overcame a sluggish start and finished with four touchdown passes, including a momentum-swinging 42-yard heave to Randall Cobb at the end of the second quarter, to lead the Green Bay Packers to a 38-13 win Sunday over the New York Giants in the NFC wild-card game in Wisconsin.

The Packers move on to face the Dallas Cowboys in the divisional round next week.

Rodgers was 25 of 40 for 362 yards, continuing a remarkable run of quarterback play that helped the Packers win their final six games of the regular season to take the NFC North. Cobb finished with five receptions for 116 yards and three scores.

For much of the first half, the Giants' defence flustered the two-time NFL MVP. They got pressure on Rodgers and the secondary blanketed the Packers' talented receiving corps, and a few boos even rained down from the stands after New York built a 6-0 lead on two field goals by Robbie Gould.

Randall Cobb catches a 42-yard touchdown pass on Sunday evening in Green Bay, Wis.
STACY REVERE/GETTY IMAGES

SCORES

WILD-CARD WEEKEND
Saturday
Texans 27, Raiders 14
Seahawks 26, Lions 6
Sunday
Steelers 30, Dolphins 12
Packers 38, Giants 13

As it turned out, Rodgers was just getting started.

"We hit a Hail Mary. That got us going," Rodgers said.

Green Bay scored two touchdowns in the final 2:20 of the second quarter, punctuated by another remarkable desperation pass by Rodgers.

With the ball on the Giants 42, Rodgers took the snap with six seconds left. He rolled to his right before heaving a throw from about the Packers 47. Cobb somehow got behind three defensive backs near the back of the end zone to haul in the pass, getting both feet down before falling out of bounds.

The Giants looked stunned, just like how the Detroit Lions and Arizona Cardinals looked last season after Rodgers pulled off similar feats.

"Davante (Adams) made a bunch of plays," Rodgers said. "And Randall Cobb, who this offence has been missing for a long time. We're better with 18 on the field and he showed it tonight."

Rodgers and Cobb weren't done.

They connected again on a 30-yard touchdown pass late in the third quarter for a 21-13 lead. That score answered a Giants scoring drive that briefly cut the deficit to one. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Harden boosts Rockets over Raps

James Harden scored 40 points to lift Houston to a 129-122 victory over the Toronto Raptors on Sunday, for the Rockets' eighth consecutive win.

Harden added 11 assists and 10 rebounds for his 10th triple-double of the season.

The Raptors' loss spoiled excellent performances from DeMar DeRozan, who had 36 points, and DeMarre Carroll, who had a career-high six three-pointers en route to 26 points.

Kyle Lowry chipped in with 12 points, while Norman Powell and Cory Joseph had 10 apiece for the Raptors (24-13), who were playing just 22 hours after a 123-118 loss in Chicago.

Montrezl Harrell had 28 points on 12-for-13 shooting for Houston (30-9).

DeRozan's 30-plus performance was his 18th this season — already a career high in a season that's not yet even half over.

SUNDAY At ACC

129	122
ROCKETS	RAPTORS

Carroll's night was particularly outstanding considering his minutes had been limited while he rebounded from injuries, and until recently, when the team was playing on consecutive nights, would have to sit one of two games. Carroll had played in Chicago.

Toronto hosts the Boston Celtics on Tuesday, and the Brooklyn Nets on Friday, then caps this homestand on Sunday against the New York Knicks. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Buchanan signs with strong French soccer team

Olympique Lyonnais has confirmed the signing of Canadian soccer star Kadeisha Buchanan.

The 21-year-old defender from Brampton, Ont., took in Lyon's men's match Sunday with Montpellier, with Olympique Lyonnais welcoming the Canadian to its powerhouse women's team via Twitter.

Olympique Lyonnais is the reigning UEFA Women's Champion League champion. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Thomas holds on to win Tournament of Champions

Justin Thomas bounced back in time Sunday to hold off Hideki Matsuyama and win the SBS Tournament of Champions.

Justin Thomas
GETTY IMAGES

Thomas closed with a 4-under 69 and ended Matsuyama's bid for a fourth straight win. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Thompson eyes 3rd Crystal Globe

SKI CROSS

Big Air Mar says she's been training hard for World Cup

Vincent Man
Metro | Toronto

What does one of the world's top skiers ask Santa for at Christmastime?

More success, naturally.

After winning the World Cup Cross Alps Tour by finishing first in three of six ski cross races last month, Marielle Thompson still has her sights set on the Crystal Globe as the season's overall champion.

Alas, she'll have to wait for the end of the ski cross calendar.

"The season's not over," Thompson told Metro in a telephone interview over the holidays from her hometown of Whistler. "My main goal this year was to win the World Cup overall, so that's still No. 1 on my radar. The Alps Tour was just confirmation that I'm on the right path.

"Winning the Crystal Globe is still No. 1 on my list, so I have to keep skiing well and getting the results to stay on top."

With the goal of securing her third overall season title, the 24-year-old known as "Big Air Mar" is continually working on improving her skill set. And much of that process for Thompson happens off the hill.

A proponent of watching videos of ski cross races, she looks for any technical tactic she can implement to get her to the finish line quicker.

"To be good at ski cross you have to be a big student of the game," Thompson said. "I definitely admire many of my male teammates because they're such great athletes. I watch them in their training runs and then on video and I'm able to learn from watching.

"For us, our coaches are obviously filming the top athletes and our Canadian athletes so we really do watch a lot after skiing and seeing what other people are doing and what we can improve upon. I definitely think it's very important. Everything that happens off the hill is almost as important as on it."

To that end, Thompson has also dedicated herself in the gym, even "on those days when it's a grind." Since debuting on the World Cup scene in 2010, she says she has grown considerably stronger and has that to thank for her fast starts.

Thompson is known to be quick out of the starting gates and, from the lead position, able to fend off challengers.

"In the beginning I wasn't too quick out of the gate, I didn't have the strength to pull my body out quickly," she said.

"With our conditioning coach here in Whistler, we've really built up (my strength) these past few seasons. We have fitness testing every spring and in the fall and I keep improving so I can only get better."

The ski cross circuit resumes in Watles, Italy, this coming weekend. One of Thompson's four victories during the 2015-16 season came at Watles.

Big Air Mar won her Crystal Globes in 2012 and 2014 — a year in which she also won the gold medal at the Olympics in Sochi, Russia. She was in contention for another season title last year, but fell a spot short.

"I don't like being second," Thompson said. "Having been on top, I want to be there again and stay there. I know I can. I've been skiing well this year and I think I can carry that momentum into the rest of the season. It would just be the cherry on top of the cake."

If she does keep up her pace, she'll get more than dessert — she'll be celebrating Christmas again in March.

Marielle Thompson
AGENCE ZOOM/GETTY IMAGES FILE

SKI FOR LESS

National Ski Day takes place on Saturday in support of Canadian ski teams. A total of 17 resorts will participate with special promotions and discounted lift tickets.

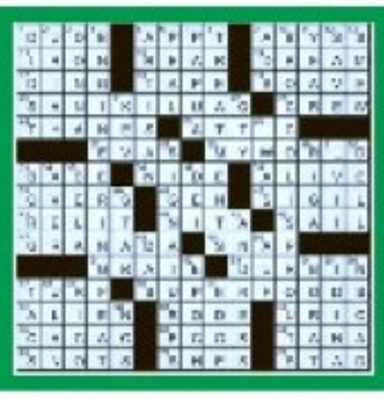
"I think it's great to get the skiing community together across the country just to bring awareness to how fun it is because some people never get the opportunity," said Thompson, who had the chance to ski with her father over the holiday break. "At the reduced rates that so many resorts are offering, it's a great opportunity for people who might not necessarily be able to afford it every day of the year."

Go to alpinecanada.org/nationalskiday for more information.

FRIDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games



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3	4	7	2	5	8	6	1	9
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4	9	5	3	1	7	2	6	8

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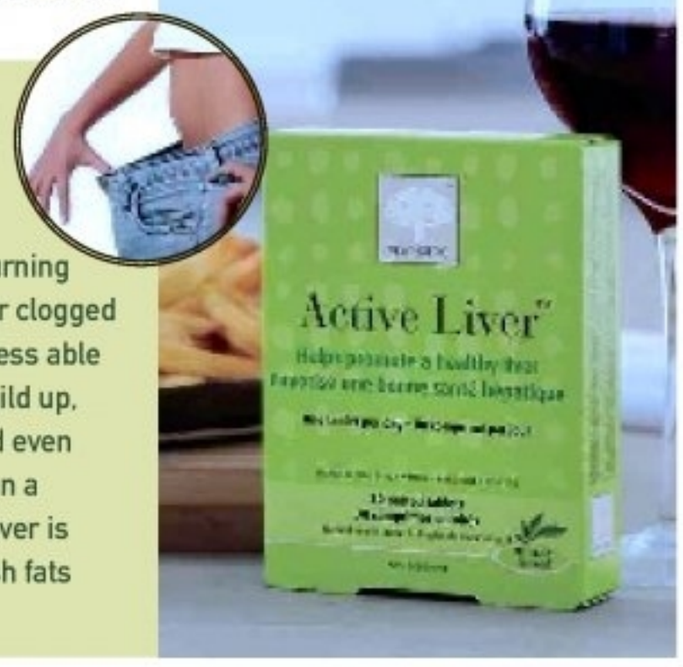

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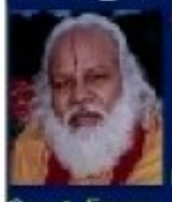

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MAKE IT TONIGHT

Individual Breakfast Pizzas

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Let's start this week off easy, shall we? How about breakfast for dinner in the form of this delicious little pizza that comes together in a snap.

Ready in 25 minutes
Prep time: 5
Cook time: 20
Serves 2

Ingredients
- 2 pitas
- 1 cup passata (or tomato or pizza sauce)
- Salt and pepper
- 1 1/2 to 2 cups mozzarella, grated
- 1/4 cup crisply fried bacon, crumbled
- Few leaves of basil
- 2 eggs

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 450 F. Place pitas on baking sheet. Pour tomato sauce on pitas and spread around. Leave a little edge clear of sauce all the way around.

2. Sprinkle cheese on each pita and push out the edges so you make a nest for each egg. Sprinkle basil and bacon around the edge of cheese nest. Gently crack an egg in the middle.

3. Slide sheet carefully into oven. Bake 15 to 20 minutes, depending on how done you like your eggs.

4. Use a spatula to move egg pizza to a cutting board where you'll cut each pizza into four. Serve with slices of avocado, sour cream and a bit of salsa. Enjoy!

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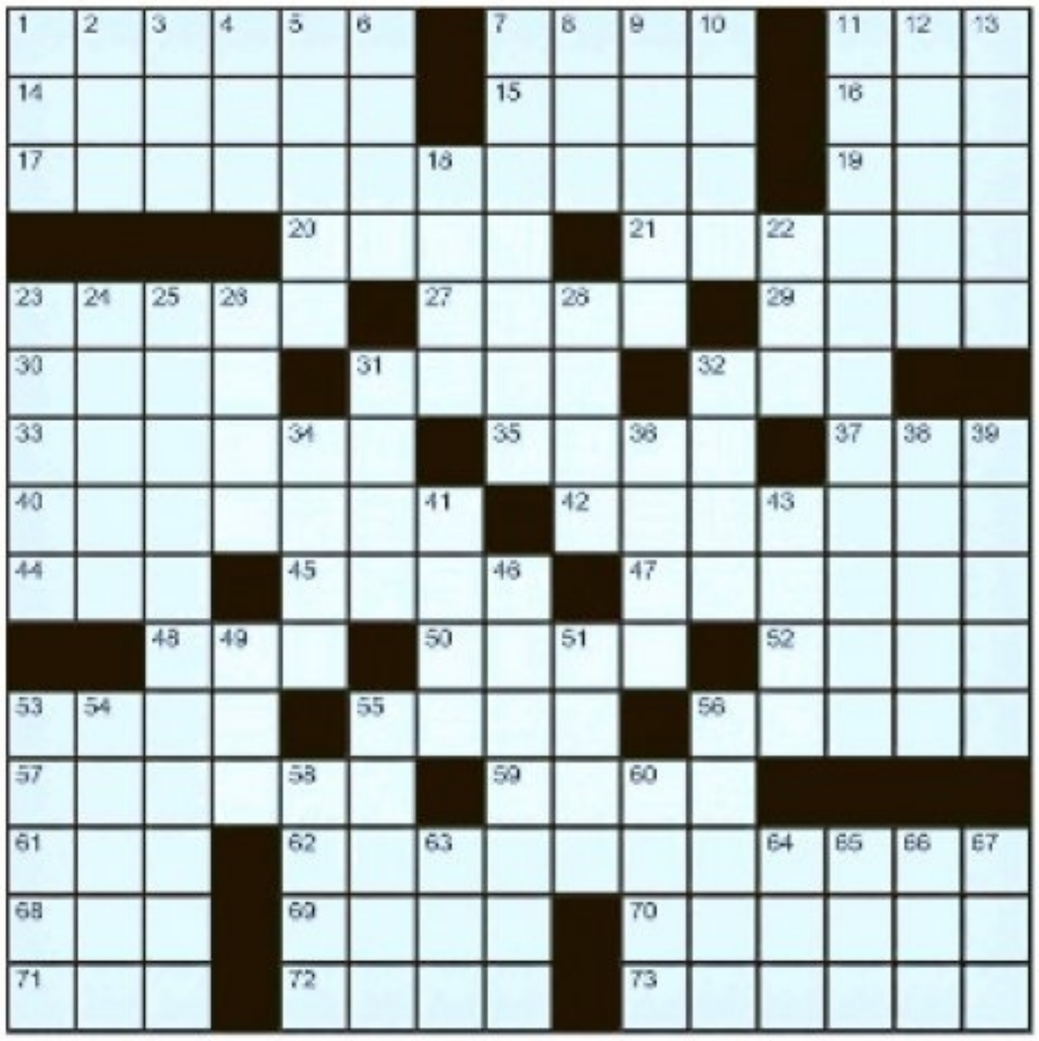
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. "I didn't realize it would take __ __." (I thought this would be over by now)
7. __-Carotene
11. Nevertheless
14. Affirmation, fancy-style
15. Get __ __ the ground floor
16. Clearasil rival, __ 5
17. Patented in 1894, Canadian inventor Theodore Witte's invention in your tool kit: 2 wds.
19. Knock at the door
20. Give off
21. Be bothersome
23. Greenfly, for one
27. Trivial things to pick
29. Immature newts
30. Repented
31. Gentle
32. Kingston Trio lettered tune
33. How most medication is taken
35. Consequently
37. Pen's cover
40. Imposing, as taxes
42. Master at La Scala
44. Grassy field
45. Caspian and Tyrrhenian
47. Flunky
48. Ho-hum habituation
50. Inscribe
52. Barrel
53. Mr. Kinnear
55. Unadorned
56. #11-Down is situated at its mouth, __ River
57. Hurrying-up human
59. Empire of Peru
61. Vancouver sch.
62. Nova Scotia __ __ Retriever (Sporting dog)
68. __-ray player
69. Rock's __ Straits
70. Oatmeal or chocolate chip
71. View
72. Burden
73. Additionally: 2 wds.

DOWN
1. Pouch
2. Latin-style eggs
3. Mr. Reed
4. Bird of the night
5. Without wearables
6. Flicker of light, for short
7. Successful spot, with The: 2 wds.
8. Manchester's country, for short
9. Experiences a destination
10. Ms. Kendrick
11. 1684: Hudson's Bay Company trading post in northeastern Manitoba which is now a National Historic Site of Canada: 2 wds.
12. Laud
13. Varieties
18. Fashion brand, __ Ricci
22. Goalie's area
23. On __ __ (Doing fantastic)
24. Mush (Recipe instruction)
25. Ontario's 400-series highways are the setting of Discovery Channel Canada's new series "__ __: 401"
26. Lazily
28. Condition
31. England: Newcastle upon __
32. __ & Chandon Champagne
34. Shopper's reference
36. Large laceration
38. Lock horns
39. Hallmark inners
41. Earth goddess of ancient Greece
43. __ crackers
46. Hits the picket line
49. "Gross!"
51. Penny
53. Chows
54. Russia's currency
55. Boston hockey player
56. Heavenly hats
58. Taro root
60. Funny lady Imogene
63. French vineyard
64. Stovetop setting
65. White House nickname
66. Zilch
67. Congeal

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Think twice before you get into an argument with someone today, especially a sibling or relative, because you might regret it. Remember: A closed mouth gathers no feet.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
This is a poor day to make important financial decisions, because you are not 100 per cent sure about what you want to do. You're also not 100 per cent sure of the facts.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Be patient when talking with parents, bosses and authority figures today, because people are confused and impatient. Don't get involved. And never underestimate the power of courtesy.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Avoid controversial subjects like politics, religion and racial issues today, because these arguments will be pointless. There's too much confusion, and too much anger.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
If you need to sort out matters related to inheritances or shared property, wait another day, because this is not the day to do it. Truthfully, your heart is not in it. These talks will fail.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
It's easy to be quarrelsome with partners and close friends today, which is why this is a poor day for important discussions. This also is the classic day where people can kid themselves. It's not good.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Avoid sensitive subjects like politics and religion today, especially with coworkers. These conversations will go south in a New York minute. Who needs this? Not you.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Postpone financial discussions for another day, especially about the shared cost of raising children or a social event. This is not a good day for this kind of thing.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Be accommodating with others today, because the Moon is opposite your sign. In addition, Neptune and Mars are causing you to confuse an issue. Go gently.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Keep your head down and your powder dry today when you're at work. Don't go looking for trouble. It will find you. Both Mars and Neptune will introduce confusion and anger to your discussions.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Parents should be patient with their kids today, because it's a confusing day. Likewise, it's a confusing day for romance.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Postpone important family discussions for another day because today confusion and heated emotions will color everything. Lighten up. You'll be glad you did later.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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9		6			7			
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1	6				9			
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5		2			3		6	

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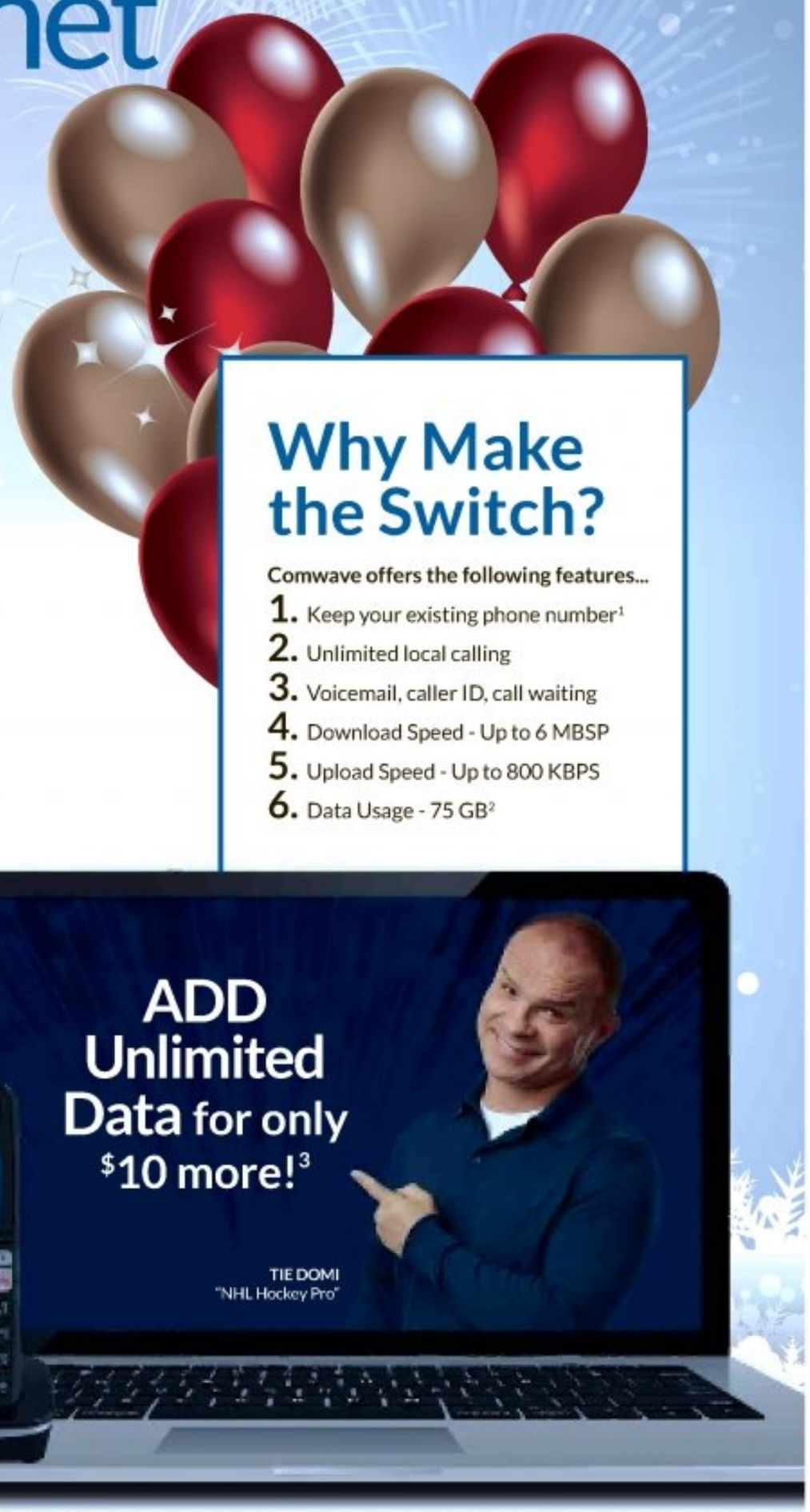

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